देश में गिरफ्तार किये गये आतंकवादी

276. **प्रो. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा** : क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगें कि:

(क) पिछले तीन वर्षो के दौरान प्रत्येक वर्ष में देश में आतंकवादियों द्वारा कितने व्यक्तियों की हत्या की गयी और कितने व्यक्तियों का अपहरण किया गया;

(ख) इस अवधि के दौरान कितने आतंकवादी पकड़े गये;

(ग) इसी अवधि के दौरान कितने आतंकवादियों पर मुकदमा चलाया गया; और

(घ) इस अवधि में कितने आतंकवादियों को सजा दी गयी?

गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (सैयद सिब्ते रजी) : (क) से (घ) राज्यों/संघ शासित क्षेत्रों से सूचना प्राप्त की जा रही हैं और उसे सदन के पटल पर रख दिया जाएगा।

Steps to save innocent persons from Police Atrocities

277. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in 'Indian Express' New Delhi of 13th September, 1995 captioned "Death in custody" relating to the National Human Rights Commission's Report for the year 1994-95;

(c) if so, the facts in this regard;

(b) the details of the cases about custodial death, police excesses, illegal detention and illegal third degree methods used to extract confessions, during each of the last three years and so far in 1995; and

(d) the steps so far taken and the guidelines issued to State Governments to save the innocent persons from police harassment, atrocities and inhuman behaviour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SYED SIBTEY RAZI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report published in "Indian Express" of New Delhi of 13 September, 1995 captioned "Death in Custody" referred to the statistics of cases of custodial deaths, police excesses and illegal detention reported by the National Human Rights Commission in its Annual Report of 1994-95. The Commission's report had indicated that the Commission had admitted, inter-alia, 171 cases of custodial death, 114 cases of illegal detention and 497 cases of other police excesses for disposal from 1.4.94 to 31 March, 1995.

(c) The complaints of custodial deaths, other police excesses and illegal detention admitted by the National Human Rights Commission during the years 1993-94 and till 22 November, 1995 in the current year (1995-96) are as follows:-

	93-94	94-95	95-96 (22 November)
Custodial death			171
Illegal detention	34		237
Other			114
Police	61		106
excesses			497

(d) Although 'Police' is a State subject,the Government of India have issued instructions/guidelines to the State Government regarding measures to prevent custodial crimes. Detailed guidelines have been circulated from time to time to the State Government and Union Territories regarding measures to prevent the use of questionable and coercive methods by the Police during investigations. While drawing attention to the legal safeguards, State Governments have been requested to bring to the notice of the Police Officers, the instructions contained in the Police Manual of different States regarding prohibiting or restricting use of force by the Police while effecting arrests, interrogating suspects or during any other stage of police enquiry or investigation. It was emphasised that Police personnel found guilty of using third degree method

would render themselves liable to exemplary punishment. It has also emphasised that senior officers should continuouly guide investigating officers during inspections and meetings and impress upon them the need for adopting correct and prescribed methods of investigation. Apart from specific guidelines, State Governments have been advised that there is a necessity to bring about qualitative change in the approach and behaviour of the Police towards the general public. Human Rights as a subject has been introduced in the curricula of several Police Training Institutes, including the premier training Institute for IPS Officers viz., the National Police Academy, Hyderabad.

Protecting Indian Fishermen

278. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India will take steps to retrieve Katchatheevu Island from Sri Lanka;

(b) whether India is aware of the attack on Indian fishermen in the Bay of Bengal;

(c) what steps the Central Government has taken to save the above said fishermen; and

(d) whether Government are aware of the repeated requests made by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister to protect Indian fishermen from the onslaught of Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Government regard the delimitation of Indo-Sri Lanka Maritime Boundary through the Agreement of 1974 and 1976 as a settled matter. In terms of the Agreements, the Katchateevu lies on the Sri Lankan side of the International Boundary Line.

(b) to (d) Government have received reports of attacks on Indian fishermen in the Palk Straits. The Government of India has taken up strongly with the Government of Sri Lanka the incidents where involvement of Sri Lankan forces is reported by the fishermen, expressing its concern, calling for expeditious release and/or compensating for injury/damage as appropriate. The Government of Sri Lanka has denied involvement in these incidents. Attacks by LTTE on Indian fishermen have also come to Government's notice.

Bilateral discussions were held in October, 1993 and in March 1994 to discuss measures for preventing such incidents of attacks on Indian fishermen in future. Both sides agreed that there is need to implement effective measure devised to prevent recurrence of such incidents. The issue was taken up during the visit of the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka in December, 1994 and with the President of Sri Lanka during her visit in March, 1995. The two sides have agreed on the need to continue the process of bilateral discussions to resolve this issue. Reports of attacks on Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan navy have become less frequent since August, 1995. Meanwhile, Government agencies and Coast Guards caution Indian fishermen against transgressing the International Border Line. This advices has been reiterated in view of the disturbed conditions in the north of Sri Lanka.

Government are aware of requests made by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister to prevent harassment to Indian fishermen.

Extinction of Medicinal Plants

279. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of medicinal plants in the country are on the verge of extinction;

(b) whether Government have identified these plants; if so, their names and uses;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some pharmaceutical companies are exploiting these scarce plants in- a big way; and

(d) if so, whether Government have chalked out any plan to grow these plants and also to save them from exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) The Botanical Survey of India conducts surveys of flora including the medicinal plants in the country and identifies rare and endangered species.